

# Chedvah And I

By Aharon Meged

Play no. 133

Opening show: 29/09/1954

Directed : Israel Becker

Designed by: Jean Gillon

Music by: Emanuel Amiran

The Cast

**Chedvah:** Ada Tal

**Shlomo Porat (Shlomik):** Nachum Buchman

**The Director:** Baruch David

Avi	}		<u>Itzchak Bareket</u>
Yoske	}		<u>Shmuel Atzmon</u>
Aachum	}	<b>Members</b>	<u>Shlomo Bertonof</u>
Rachel	}	<b>of</b>	<u>Adina Feldman</u>
Yafa	}	<b>Kibbutz</b>	<u>Berenica Gurari</u>
Dudu	}	<b>Merchavim</b>	<u>Albert Chizkiyahu</u>
Dina	}		<u>Nava Shan</u>
Chana	}		<u>Niura Shein</u>
Sara	}		<u>Rachel Timor</u>

**Porter:** Baruch David

**Photographer:** Albert Chizkiyahu

**A Young Woman:** Rachel Timor

**Hadassah Krakower:** Hanna Hendler / Tamar Robins

**Avraham Krakower:** Refael Klatzkin

**Patent-Polish Peddler:** Chaim Amitai

**Restaurant Owner:** Shlomo Bruck

**Tie-Peddler:** Shlomo Bertonov

**"Mif'al Hapayis" Announcer:** Adina Feldman

**Toy-Peddler:** Itzchak Bareket

**A Soldier:** Shmuel Atzmon

**A Gentleman:** Albert Chizkiyahu

**Mishka:** Shmuel Rodensky

**Carter:** Yehuda Rubinstein

Genia	}		<u>Shoshana Duer</u>
No'omi Chavatzelet	}		<u>Adina Feldman</u>
Dvorah Chavivi	}		<u>Berenica Gurari</u>
Afarsemon	}	<b>Government</b>	<u>Albert Chizkiyahu</u>
Rfael Binyamini	}	<b>Official</b>	<u>Itzchak Bareket</u>
Avraham Vilenchuk	}		<u>Shmuel Atzmon</u>
Chanina	}		<u>Shlomo Bertonov</u>
Ya'akoby	}		<u>Baruch David</u>

**Scene 1 – The Beginning:**

One of the director from the "Habimah" Theatre comes to the Kibbutz "Merchavim" in the Negev, seeking Shlomo Porat, the hero of Aharon Megeed's novel "Chedva and I". Upon meeting him he asks Shlomo to retell him the story of his wanderings in Tel-Aviv, with the purpose of putting this story on the stage. Shlomo Porat (Shlomik) strongly objects to this, but in the end acquiesces to the director's request, when he realizes that the story may never be as a moral to others.

### **Scene 2– The story of Pair of Stockings**

Chedvah, Shlomik's wife, is not happy life on the kibbutz. From the time that the War of Independence ended she has been pleading with Shlomik to leave the kibbutz and its hard life in the Negev, and go to the City where one can live in Independence, ease and riches. Shlomik at one of the old-time, respected members of the kibbutz refuses all her pleading and turns a deaf ear to all her tantrums. The arguments reach their climax one evening when Chedvah feels herself discriminated against in a matter concerning the distribution of new pairs of stockings and in the preparation of the work-calendar. All the Shlomik's efforts are to avail. Because of her "persecutions" she remains adamant and come what may she decides to leave.

### **Scene 3 – The Gates of the City**

Shlomik and Chedvah come to the city with all their belongings. Shlomik as a captive who has been forced to accept his wife's decision; Chedvah as one who has come from slavery into redemption.

### **Scene 4 – In the Bosom of Family**

Shlomik and Chedvah are happily received by Chedvah's parents, who are pleased to see that their children will finally become "normal human beings". Krakower, Chedvah's father, immediately begins to concern himself over Shlomik's future livelihood. Chedvah and her mother Hadassah try to help Shlomik adjust to city life by bringing him new clothes. But Shlomik, who against his will has changed his way of life, feels that at least he must retain some of its signs, and so refuses to adjust to a new style of living.

### **Scene 5 – Shlomik finds work that suits him**

Shlomik, a farmer by profession and by nature, seeks work which will suit him. During one of the trips through the city he meets Mishka, who also once was a member of "Merchavim", but who had left a year before, and meanwhile had managed to "adjust". He is a truck driver. Mishka lectures to Shlomik about city life and promises to help him find work with a high salary. But Shlomik, who feels that he must remain true to at least his inner nature, refuses his offer and meets a horse-cart driver and becomes his helper. With his first day's salary he buys Chedvah's mother a present – a tube of cleaner for polishing brass furnishings.

### **Scene 6 – Such is Work and Such is its Pay**

Happy that he has found work that suits him, Shlomik returns home, bringing with him his gift for his mother-in-law. When family finds out that he is working for a carter, a storm of anger brews up. Krakower lectures him about staining the honorable name of the family, and demands that he forgets the idea about

working as a common laborer, and tries to influence him to go to work in a government office. Shlomik views this idea with misgivings, but Chedvah explains to him that the good of the government demands this of him.

### **Scene 7 – Outside the "Kiryah"**

The family accompanies Shlomik to Chaninah's office in the "Kiryah". Shlomik is met there by Chaninah and Afersemon who give job as a low-rated-filing-clerk. The family objects to this but are reassured by Chaninah's positiveness that Shlomik will advance.

### **Scene 8 – Shlomik Rises to Great Heights**

Shlomik works as a filing clerk and feels himself a prisoner. Genia, who works with him in the same office understands him and he tells her of his longings for the kibbutz. A Minister comes to inspect the office and meets Shlomik. When he finds out that Shlomik once was a member of a kibbutz, he requests that Shlomik be transferred to more useful work, Chaninah then informs Shlomik that he has been promoted, and has been appointed to – officer in charge of newspapers and publicity.

### **Scene 9 – The Party**

Shlomik and Chedvah rent themselves an apartment. Shlomik's name has appeared in the newspapers because of his new job. The family comes to celebrate this great occurrence. Mishka and his wife Tziporka also come to congratulate the happy pair on their success. And gradually they begin to reminisce about "Merchavim" and Mishka suggests to Shlomik that he should go with him and visit the kibbutz.

### **Scene10 – A Sad Meeting**

Mishka and Shlomik come to the kibbutz. Shlomik is received coldly by the members of the kibbutz, but a warm reception is given to him by one of the children of the kibbutz who was an "old" friend of his. Shlomik is emotionally upset by this meeting and his feeling of longing for "Merchavim" mounts as does his feeling of loneliness in the city.

### **Scene11 – The End of a Story and the Beginning of a Story**

Chedvah is still not pleased as she compares her standard of living with those of her neighbours and take others who have left the kibbutz. Avraham and Hadassah Krakower decide that Shlomik should leave his work in the government and should become a partner in some business which promises him a profit. Mishka expresses his anger on Shlomik for not keeping up with the times, and for refusing to adjust to the profit-making habits of city-life-society. Shlomik returns home with a bruised head after having been mistakenly taken for one of the demonstrators from "ma'abara" in the Negev who demanded to be brought to Tel-Aviv. Chedvah tries to console him and tells him about their decision to enter into business. Shlomik drowns his sorrow in drink and begins to sum up his bitter experiences in the city. Chedvah claims that his failure stems from his longings and attachment to the kibbutz. Shlomik runs out of the house and seeks after his lost hat.